

Message Text

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12641 121836Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 CU-04

ARA-16 SR-02 ORM-03 AGR-20 EB-11 DRC-01 /196 W

----- 089343

R 121644Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2949

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12641

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT UR

SUBJ: INTERNAL HIGHLIGHTS - SEPTEMBER

1. DISSIDENCE. IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE A CASE OF FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS OUTWEIGHING PERCEIVED INTERNAL SECURITY IMPERATIVES, THE CAMPAIGN OF SIGNED PRESS ATTACKS AGAINST SKHAROV HALTED IN MID-SEPTEMBER. THE FUROR OVER SAKHAROV AND THE CURDELY STAGED YAKIR-KRASIN TRIAL NOT ONLY DAMAGED THE REGIME'S IMAGE ABROAD BUT GAVE NEW LIFE TO THE DEMORALIZED DISSIDENT MOEVMENT. SOLZHENITSYN JOINED THE FRAY; SEVERAL SCIENTISTS AND SOME PREVIOUSLY INACTIVE DISSIDENTS RELEASED STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR SAKHAROV TO WESTERN NEWSMEN; AND AN ACTION GROUP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EMERGED. THE ATTACKS SEEMED TO STIMULATE SAKHAROV HIMSELF, AND HE CONTINUED TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCES, GIVE INTERVIEWS AND MAKE STATEMENTS. ALTHOUGH SAKHAROV AND OTHER DISSIDENTS WERE PERIODICALLY SUBJECTED TO CRITICISM IN THE PRESS, THERE WAS NO RETURN TO A FULL-FLEDGED CAMPAIGN. WHILE SOME SOVIETS BELIEVE THAT THE REGIME HAD BEEN PREPARING THE WAY FOR ACTION AGAINST SAKHAROV, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID PRIVATELY THAT THEY EXPECTED NOTHING TO HAPPEN TO HIM.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 12641 121836Z

2. UNJAMMING OF WESTERN RADIO. THE EXTENT OF THE CRITICISM IN THE WEST OVER THE TREATMENT OF SAKHAROV MAY HAVE SURPRISED THE SOVIETS. WITH CSCE BEGINNING AND CONGRESS CONSIDERING MFN, THE REGIME PROBABLY WAS JUSTIFIABLY CONCERNED ABOUT

ITS IMAGE. THE DECISION TO HALT THE JAMMING OF VOA, BBC AND DEUTSCHCE WELLE WAS PROBABLY TAKEN IN THIS CONTEXT; IT PROBABLY HAD BEEN PLANNED AS PART OF MOSCOW'S CSCE STRATEGY. EMBASSY CONTACTS INDICATE THAT THE THREE STATIONS ARE BEING HEARD WIDELY AND ARE OFTEN COMPARED WITH EACH OTHER IN THEIR COVERAGE OF NEWS EVENTS, BOTH IN TERMS OF SUBSTANCE AND SPEED OF REPORTING.

3. LEADERSHIP. BREZHNEV MADE ALMOST DAILY HEADLINES. HIS TRIP TO BULGARIA TO RECEIVE AN AWARD AND HIS TASHKENT SPEECH WERE WELL PUBLICIZED EVENTS AND FURTHER BOOSTED HIS IMAGE. SOME OF THE PERSONAL PUBLICITY WAS CURIOUS--HE MADE A STATEMENT THANKING HIS FANS AROUND THE WORLD FOR THEIR CONGRATULATIONS OF HIS RECEIPT OF THE LENIN PEACE PRIZE; LETTERS APPEARED IN THE PRESS PRAISING HIS EFFORTS; AND HIS ROLE AS A "WAR HERO" RECEIVED ADDITIONAL EMPHASIS. THROUGHOUT THE MONTH REASONS WERE INVENTED FOR PRAISING HIS PRONOUNCEMENTS, AND FOREIGN PRESS ARTICLES CONNECTING HIM WITH SOVIET SUCCESSES WERE QUOTED CONTINUALLY. MUCH OF THIS PRAISE SEEMED DEFENSIVE IN TONE AND OVERDONE, AND THIS HAS LED SOME OBSERVERS TO SPECULATE THAT BREZHNEV IS HAVING HIS TROUBLES. THE EMBASSY DISCOUNTS THIS SPECULATION. BREZHNEV HAS PLENTY OF POTENTIAL PROBLEMS, BUT WE DO NOT SEE ANY OF THEM AS AN IMMEDIATE THREAT. THE IMAGE-BUILDING EFFORT SEEMS TO BE A CONTINUING POLITICAL EXERCISE.

4. KOSYGIN'S TRIP TO YUGOSLAVIA, IN CONTRAST, WAS PLAYED IN A RATHER ROUTINE, LOW-KEY MANNER. BREZHNEV GOT MORE PROMINENT HEADLINES BY RECEIVING A CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER. KOSYGIN HIMSELF MADE IT A POINT TO REFER TO BREZHNEV IN HIS MAJOR SPEECH IN YUGOSLAVIA.

5. POLYANSKY, SHELEPIN AND MAZUROV WERE OTHERWISE THE MOST PUBLICLY ACTIVE POLITBURO MEMBERS AS THEY RECEIVED A NUMBER OF FOREIGN DELEGATION DURING THE MONTH.

6. JEWS AND EMIGRATION. THE DUTCH CONSUL (PROECT) INFORMED CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 12641 121836Z

THE EMBASSY THAT A RECORD OF 3,659 PERSONS WERE PROCESSED DURING THE MONTH FOR EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. IF THE MONTHLY RATE CONTINUES TO EXCEED 3,000, TOTAL EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL IN 1973 WILL EXCEED THE 1972 FIGURE OF 31,400. ALTHOUGH SOME "HARD CORE" EMIGRANTS RECEIVED VISAS DURING THE MONTH, THERE IS AS YET LITTLE EVIDENCE OF A TREND TOWARD LARGE SCALE SOLUTION OF SUCH CASES.

7. MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD JEWS CELEBRATED THE HOLIDAY OF ROSH HASHONAH IN A RELATIVELY RELAXED ATMOSPHERE, AND WITH SOMEWHAT LESS THAN THE NORMAL AMOUNT OF POLICE HARASSMENT. HOWEVER, JEWISH SOURCES IN MOSCOW CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS OF PROBLEMS BETWEEN JEWS AND THE

POLICE IN KIEV DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD. ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS WERE REPORTEDLY MADE AFTER A GROUP OF JEWS ATTEMPTED TO CONDUCT A MEMORAL CEREMONY AT THE BABI YAR SITE.

8. IDEOLGOY. MORE ARTICLES APPEARED IN THE PRESS CALLING FOR IDEOLOGICAL BELTTIGHTENING AND WARNING OF THE DANGERS OF "SUBVERSION" FROM THE WEST. THE PRESS EMPHASIZED THAT CURRENT MOVEMENTS TOWARD PEACE AND COOPERATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE DO NOT SIGNAL AN END TO THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE. EMPHASIS ON THE ADVANTAGES OF SOCIALISM SEEMED TO BE IN LINE WITH BREZHNEV'S CALL TO PARTY PROPAGANDISTS DURING HIS ALAM ATA SPEECH TO DO A BETTER JOB ON THIS SUBJECT.

9. MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE US. SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE OF THE US INDICATED THAT, WHILE THE HONEYMOON IS NOT OVER, MORE ATTENTION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE. THE US GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO BE CHARACTERIZED AS FAVORING DETENTE, AND BILATERAL COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES WERE PORTRAYED IN A POSITIVE, UPBAT MANNER. MORE CRITICISM APPEARED, HOWEVER, OF US INTERNAL PROBLEMS WITH NUMEROUS ITEMS OF INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND RACIAL STRIFE. SOME US PUBLIC FIGURES WERE SCORED FOR "TRYING TO BRING BACK THE COLD WAR," WHILE RADIO LIBERTY AND RADIO FREE EUROPE BECAME INCREASINGLY FAVORITE OBJECTS OF ATTACK. IN COVERING THE CHILEAN EVENTS, THE MEDIA DID NOT DIRECTLY IMPLICATE THE US GOVERNMENT, BUT CARRIED REPORTS INDICATING THAT US "MONOPOLIES" AND CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 12641 121836Z

THE CIA HAD A ROLE.

10. AGRICULTURE. THE GRAIN HARVEST APPROACHED ITS END WITH THE USUAL VOLUME OF EXHORTATIONS IN THE PRESS TO BRING IN THE CROP. THE HARVEST MAY SET A RECORD BUT WILL PROBABLY FALL SHORT OF THE PLAN. THE HARVEST HAS BEEN HAMPERED AND THE QUALITY OF GRAIN LOWERED BY SOME UNUSUALLY WET WEATHER IN IMPORTANT GRAIN AREAS.

11. UKRAINIAN PARTY DEVELOPMENTS. SHCHERBITSKIY SPOKE AT A UKRAINIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM ON SEPTEMBER 14. ALTHOUGH HE GENERALLY PRESENTED AN OPTIMISTIC PICTURE OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY IN THE REPUBLIC, HE ALSO DWELT ON SHORTCOMINGS IN THE CADRE AND IDEOLOGICAL SECTORS OF THE LOCAL PARTY. ON THE SAME DAY, IN WHAT WAS PROBABLY A MOVE TO FURTHER CEMENT SHCHERBITSKIY'S POSITION IN THE LOCAL PARTY LEADERSHIP, THE UKRAINIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE RAISED TWO CANDIDATE MEMBERS OF ITS POLITBURO TO FULL MEMBERSHIP STATUS AND NAMED TWO NEWS CANDIDATE MEMBERS. DUBS

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW12641
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731065/abqcegew.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <05-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNAL HIGHLIGHTS - SEPTEMBER
TAGS: PINT, UR
To: STATE INFO MUNICH
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005